

SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION and CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*a public entity of the state of california exercising joint powers of the city of santa clarita and the santa monica mountains conservancy
pursuant to government code section 6500 et seq*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Joseph T. Edmiston, AICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 9, 1998

SUBJECT: Agenda Item V, Consideration of resolution authorizing letter of support for AB 1743 (Runner), legislation to expand the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board support AB 1743, and approve the resolution authorizing the letter of support.

The draft comment letter is attached.

Background: At its November 20, 1997 meeting, the Governing Board approved a resolution to request Assemblyman George Runner to carry legislation to expand the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, to include the area previously excluded from the corridor, lying east of Highway 14, including Whitney and Elsmere Canyons.

Assemblyman Runner introduced AB 1743 in early February. The City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy have formally endorsed the bill; SCWRCA's support has been implicit because of the Governing Board's November action.

The bill has elicited unexpectedly vigorous opposition from Browning Ferris Industries (BFI), owners of some of the land that would be included if the measure is successful. The bill is slated to have its first hearing on Monday, April 13, in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Amendments have been offered by the author to assuage concerns by BFI that the bill is designed to thwart "local landfill siting efforts." The Governing Board may wish to reaffirm its support for the bill before the Monday hearing.